

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application, none of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for informalities which have been corrected in red ink in the attached print of FIG. 1. If approved, these corrections will be incorporated into formal drawings to be filed prior to payment of the issue fee.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,283,559 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter "Yamada et al.").

Yamada et al. has a U.S. filing date of April 21, 1999, which is subsequent to the foreign priority date of March 9, 1999. Thus, Yamada et al. is not a proper reference under either 35 USC §102(e) or 35 USC §103(a). Accordingly, a verified English translation of the foreign priority document, namely, JP Appln. 11-062411, filed on March 9, 1999 is attached hereto in order to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully defer this action because the filing of the verified English translation of the foreign priority document should remove the prior art rejection of claim 1, from which claim 2 depends.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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WLB/nrp

Enclosures: Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
Verified English translation of JP Appln. 11-062411

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[The] An engine control system for a hybrid vehicle [,according to the present invention] having an internal combustion engine and an electric motor as driving force sources, for permitting stopping and starting of the engine in accordance with predetermined drive conditions[, comprises:]. The system includes a booster for receiving a negative pressure supplied by an operation of the engine[;], a pressure detector for detecting a pressure supplied to the brake booster[;], a throttle-opening state detector for detecting a throttle opening state[;] and an engine-operation enable/disable determining device for determining whether or not to operate the engine when the engine is stopped, based on the throttle opening state detected by the throttle-opening-state detector and the pressure detected by the pressure detector.

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